

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of treating or reducing the likelihood of miniaturization of the hair follicle and/or alopecia, comprising administering to a human being an oral composition comprising at least one of taurine, hypotaurine, salts of taurine and salts of hypotaurine, and at least one polyphenol, in an amount effective for treating or reducing the likelihood of miniaturization of the hair follicle and/or alopecia;

wherein the taurine, hypotaurine, and salts thereof are the sole active amino acid.

2. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the method treats or reduces the likelihood of impairment of the connective tissue of the hair follicle.

3. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the method treats or reduces the likelihood of impairment of the hair follicle induced by rigidification of the connective sheath.

4. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the method treats or reduces the likelihood of impairment of the hair follicle induced by excessive crosslinking and/or synthesis of natural collagens.

5. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the method regulates the metabolism and structure of collagens in perifollicular skin tissue.

6. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the method regulates the metabolism and structure of collagens in the connective sheath of the hair follicle.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein an amount of taurine is between 0.5 and 4000 mg/day in the form of taurine and/or hypotaurine and/or salts thereof.

9. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein an amount of taurine is between 10 and 500 mg/day in the form of taurine and/or hypotaurine and/or salts thereof.

10. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein an amount of taurine is between 50 and 150 mg/day in the form of taurine and/or hypotaurine and/or salts thereof.

11. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the salts of taurine and/or hypotaurine are the magnesium, manganese, iron II or zinc salts.

12. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the oral composition further comprises at least one fatty acid.

13. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polyphenol is at least one member selected from the group consisting of flavones, flavonols, isoflavones, anthocyanins, flavanols, proanthocyanidins, flavanones, and stilbenes.

14. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the fatty acid is selected from the group consisting of n-6 and n-3 essential polyunsaturated fatty acids containing between 18 and 22 carbon atoms, esters thereof, and mixtures thereof.

15. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the oral composition is in the form of a food supplement.

16-18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polyphenol is selected from the group consisting of catechin, epicatechin, epigallocatechin 3-

O-gallate, epigallocatechin, epicatechin 3-gallate, procyanidins, proanthocyanidins, and mixtures thereof.

20. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the daily dose of the polyphenol is between 0.5 and 2000 mg/day.

21. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the daily dose of the polyphenol is from about 0.5 to 1000 mg/day.

22. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the fatty acid is selected from the group consisting of linoleic acid, γ -linolenic acid, linolenic acid, stearidonic acid, crocetin, 5,8,11,14-eicosatetraenoic acid, and mixtures thereof.

23. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the daily dose of the fatty acid is between 0.5 and 3500 mg/day.

24. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the fatty acid is at least one n-6 fatty acid in an amount of 0.5 to 2600 mg/day.

25. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the fatty acid is at least one n-3 fatty acid in an amount of 0.5 to 2500 mg/day.

26. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the oral composition further comprises at least one supplement selected from the group consisting of vitamins C and E, zinc and salts thereof, selenium, and carotenoids.

27. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A composition for oral absorption, ~~comprising, comprising:~~

~~as active agent, a total amount of at least 0.05% to 80% by weight of taurine and/or hypotaurine and/or salts thereof~~ at least one of taurine, hypotaurine, salts of taurine and salts of hypotaurine as an active agent, the salts being acceptable for oral absorption, at least one polyphenol, and an excipient, said composition being free of vitamin C, wherein the taurine, hypotaurine, and salts thereof are the sole active amino acid.

28. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 27, ~~characterized in that it comprises at least one polyphenol and/or further comprising~~ at least one fatty acid and/or a salt thereof acceptable in an oral composition.

29. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 28, ~~characterized in that it~~ wherein said composition comprises from 0.01% to 10% by weight of said at least one polyphenol and/or 0.1% to 10% by weight of said at least one fatty acid:

30. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A composition for oral absorption, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising:

at least one polyphenol ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of flavonols, anthocyanins, flavanols, ~~proanthocyanidins and proanthocyanidins,~~ flavanones, and ~~stilbenes, and/or stilbenes;~~

a fatty acid ~~chosen from~~ selected from the group consisting of n-6 and n-3 essential polyunsaturated fatty acid(s), acids containing between 18 and 22 carbon atoms, and also esters thereof, and mixtures thereof, ~~and/or an extract comprising the same, in combination with~~ thereof; and

~~taurine and/or hypotaurine and/or salts thereof~~ at least one of taurine, hypotaurine, salts of taurine and salts of hypotaurine, the salts being acceptable for oral absorption and, where appropriate, an excipient. absorption;

wherein the taurine, hypotaurine, and salts thereof are the sole active amino acid.

31. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 28, ~~characterized in that it comprises at least some polyphenols in combination with taurine and/or hypotaurine and/or acceptable salts thereof in~~ wherein a polyphenol/taurine weight ratio is at least equal to 0.5, ~~in particular greater than or equal to 0.75 and especially greater than or equal to 1.~~

32. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 28, ~~characterized in that it~~ wherein said composition comprises 0.01% to 30% by weight of taurine and/or hypotaurine and/or acceptable salts thereof, in combination with 0.1% to 50% by weight of extracts comprising said at least one polyphenol.

33. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 30, ~~characterized in that it~~ wherein said composition comprises ~~at least some catechins in combination with taurine and/or hypotaurine and/or acceptable salts thereof.~~

34. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 33, ~~characterized in that it~~ wherein said composition comprises 0.01% to 30% by weight of said taurine and/or hypotaurine and/or acceptable salts thereof, in combination with 0.1% to 25% by weight of said catechins.

35. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A composition for oral absorption, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising 0.01% to 30% by weight of ~~taurine and/or hypotaurine and/or acceptable salts thereof, in combination with~~ at least one of taurine, hypotaurine, salts of taurine and salts of hypotaurine, 0.01% to 10% by weight of fatty acids, and at least one polyphenol, wherein the at least one of taurine, hypotaurine, and salts thereof are the sole active amino acid.

36. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 29, ~~characterized in that it also comprises~~ further comprising at least one of the compounds ~~chosen compound selected from vitamins C and the group consisting of vitamin E, zinc or its salts, zinc, zinc salts, selenium and at least one carotenoid, preferably a carotenoid chosen from β -carotene, lycopene, zeaxanthin and lutein~~ carotenoids.

37. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 29, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein said composition comprises an excipient that is acceptable for a food ~~supplement, supplement~~ in the form of a sugarcoated tablet, a gel capsule, a gel, an

emulsion, a tablet, a wafer capsule, a drinkable ampule, a dilutable or nondilutable powder, a dietary ~~bars-bar~~ or an enriched-foods food.

38. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 27, ~~characterized in that it~~ wherein said composition is a food supplement.

39. (Previously Presented) A cosmetic process for treating or reducing the likelihood of miniaturization of the hair follicle and/or alopecia via the oral administration of an oral composition comprising taurine and/or hypotaurine and/or acceptable salts thereof, and at least one polyphenol;

wherein the taurine and/or hypotaurine and/or acceptable salts thereof are the only active amino acid administered.

40. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 39, in which the taurine, hypotaurine and/or acceptable salts thereof is (are) administered at a dose of from 0.5 to 4000 mg per day of taurine.

41. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 39, in which the taurine, hypotaurine and/or acceptable salts thereof is (are) used in combination with at least one supplement selected from the group consisting of zinc, polyphenols, fatty acids, vitamin C, vitamin E, and carotenoids.

42. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A cosmetic process for treating ~~and preventing or reducing the likelihood of developing~~ disorders of ~~the~~ a pilosebaceous unit via ~~the~~ oral administration of at least one fatty acid, at least one polyphenol or an extract comprising the same, optionally in combination with taurine and/or hypotaurine and/or acceptable salts thereof at least one of taurine, hypotaurine, salts of taurine and salts of hypotaurine, wherein the taurine, hypotaurine, and salts thereof are the sole active amino acid.

43. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 42, in which the taurine, hypotaurine or acceptable salts thereof is (are) administered at a dose of

from 0.5 to 4000 ~~mg per day,~~ mg/day, as taurine equivalent, and the at least one fatty acid is administered at a dose of from 0.5 to 5400 mg/day, ~~or a~~ and the at least one polyphenol is administered at a dose of from 0.5 to 2000 mg/day.

44. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 31, wherein the polyphenol/taurine weight ratio is greater than or equal to 0.75.

45. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 31, wherein the polyphenol/taurine weight ratio is greater than or equal to 1.

46. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 36, wherein the compound comprises at least one carotenoid selected from the group consisting of β -carotene, lycopene, zeaxanthin, and lutein.